



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

MISSISSIPPI WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1070

GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI 38901



May 21, 1993

Dr. Harry Jacobson
Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
P.O. Box LW
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dear Harry:

Enclosed please find the results of the 1992 archery and primitive weapon seasons at Dahomey NWR. This data was reported by the hunters at un-manned check stations. I have also included the year's summary by sex and body weight.

Stephen W. Gard
Project Leader

Enclosures:

H. PUBLIC USE

8. Hunting

The second hunting season on Dahomey NWR again transpired without incident. Although nearly 5,000 refuge permits were issued for the 1992-93 hunting season, average hunter participation remained low. Hunter check stations containing refuge brochures and sign-out sheets for recording deer data were placed at various entrance points on the refuge.

Early hunter participation and success rates were low for both small game and deer hunts. Approximately 125 hunters showed for the first day of squirrel season and average take was three squirrels per hunter. Average participation for the remainder of the squirrel season in 1992 was about 6-8 hunters per day with similar take.

Hunter turnout for Archery season was low, averaging 8-10 hunters per day (slightly down from 1991) and only two deer were harvested during the season.

Muzzleloader season in 1992 saw increased hunter participation but success rates were markedly lower than in 1991. Average turnout was 25-30 hunters per day and 25 deer were reported taken during the season.

Two and students from Mississippi State University assisted refuge personnel in operating an all-day check station for the two-day antlerless-only rifle hunt on December 17-18, 1992. All deer harvested were aged, sexed, and weighed with pregnancy & ovulation rates checked on the does and antlers measured on the bucks. Dr. Jacobson is compiling and interpreting the data and should help provide insight concerning current health and sex/age structure of the deer herd at Dahomey. An estimated 225-250 hunters participated on the first day and 125-150 hunters participated on the second day of the two-day hunt. Twenty-one deer were harvested.

A total of 48 deer were harvested this year on the refuge during 1 1/2 months of either sex archery season, two weeks of either sex muzzleloader season, and a two-day antlerless only hunt.

DEER HARVEST DATA DAHOMEY NWR 1992

Archery and Muzzleloader Season

Average live weights as estimated by
hunters at un-manned check stations

	# reported	% of total	avg. wt.
Buck	11	41	130 lbs.
Doe	16	59	110 lbs.

Two-day antlerless-only rifle hunt

Data recorded at refuge check station (live weights)

	# recorded	% of total	avg. wt.
Buck	1	05	130 lbs.
Doe	20	95	119 lbs.

1992 deer harvest totals

	# harvested	% of total
Buck	12	25
Doe	<u>36</u>	<u>75</u>
TOTAL	48	100

DEER HARVEST DATA SHEET

APPROXIMATE
LIVE WEIGHT

[illegible]

DEER HARVEST DATA SHEET

APPROXIMATE
LIVE WEIGHT

[illegible]

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HUNTER'S
NAME

APPROXIMATE
LIVE WEIGHT

[illegible]

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